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W. T. DONOVAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



B O R O U G H       O F       B E X H I L L

HEALTH       COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Mr. Alderman A.H. Davis, J.P.

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His Worship the Mayor  
(Mr. Alderman W.N. Cuthbert, J.P.)

Mr. Alderman F. B. Bending, J.P.

Alderman Miss F.H. Burrows

Mr. Alderman A. Turner Laing, J.P.

Mr. Alderman C.A. RosemaleCocq.

Mr. Councillor A. Ashby, J.P.

Mr. Councillor F. Kynoch Clark.

Mr. Councillor E. Corbett.

Mr. Councillor W.H. Faires.

Mr. Councillor G. Ravenshear.

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Borough Isolation  
Hospital and School Medical Officer:

W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. Norwell, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

A. C. Horne, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant:

W. Stone.

Clinch Green Isolation Hospital:

Matron: Miss S.S. Grimes, S.R.N., R.F.N. (Resigned April, 1939.)  
Miss D. O'Donnell, R.F.N. (Appointed April, 1939,  
Resigned July, 1939.)

Miss F.M. Blakey. (Appointed August, 1939.)

Maternity and Child Welfare (Bexhill Nursing Association and  
East Sussex County Council):

M.C.W. Clinics: A.H. Winchester, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.C.O.G.  
L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal

Clinic: L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and District Nurses (Bexhill Nursing Association &  
East Sussex County Council):

M. Reeves, S.R.N., S.C.M.

E. Harris, S.R.N., S.C.M.

L. Parks, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. Ward, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis (East Sussex County Council):

Sir A.E. Moore, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., R.C.P.S. (Eng.).

Veneral Diseases (East Sussex County Council):

P. Lazarus Darlow, M.D.

Clerks:

Miss M. Boynton.

K.F. Westwood. (Called up for Military Service, Sept. 1939.)

N. Philcox. (Appointed September, 1939.)

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

In accordance with instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 2067, the report has been curtailed and should be considered as an interim report.

The general standard of health of the public has been very satisfactory. No serious outbreak of disease occurred during the year, and in this connection, it is appropriate here to congratulate householders and those organisations responsible for the welfare of evacuees on the excellent results achieved.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population, mid-year 1939, is 23,760. This represents an increase of 330 on the estimate for the previous year.

The Birth Rate for the Borough is 11.1 per 1,000 estimated population, showing a slight decrease when compared with the rate for 1938.

The Adjusted Death Rate for the Borough is 10.6, while that of the Country as a whole is 12.1.

There has been a reduction in the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, the incidence of which continues to be low within the Borough.

In spite of the considerable calls made upon the services of the staff in connection with the Air Raid Precautions (Casualty) Services, the statutory requirements of the Department have been fulfilled in a satisfactory manner.

It is with pleasure that I again record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support, and to my staff for their loyalty and willing assistance given me under the present difficult conditions.


I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. DONOVAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,  
Town Hall,  
BEXHILL.  
31st October, 1940.



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# S E C T I O N                      A

## S T A T I S T I C S   A N D   S O C I A L   C O N D I T I O N S O F   T H E   A R E A

Area	..	..	..	..	8,015 acres.
Population	..	..	..	..	a. 23,760
(Registrar General's estimate of resident population)					b. 25,030
Number of inhabited houses				..	6,109
(According to Rate Books)					
			Flats	..	1,077
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£360,460
General Rate	..	..	..	..	9/6d
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..			..	£1,375

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The remarks made in my report for 1938 in connection with the Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough are applicable to the year 1939.

### METEOROLOGY

The publication of meteorological statistics is withheld, but the practice described fully in previous reports has been continued throughout the year under review.

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births:			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate .. ..			138	107	245	) 263
Illegitimate .. ..			7	11	18	

Rate per 1,000 estimated Resident Population 11.1

Stillbirths:			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate .. ..			2	2	4	) 5
Illegitimate .. ..			1	-	1	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 11.3

Deaths:	..	..	..	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
				139	205	344

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:

Crude ..	13.7
Adjusted ..	10.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal sepsis .. ..	..	..	Nil
Other puerperal causes .. ..	..	..	Nil

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births --

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate .. ..			6	3	9	) 10
Illegitimate .. ..			-	1	1	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births ..	34.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	32.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	47.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. 59

Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. Nil

Zymotic Death Rate .. .. .04



The statistics in the report are compiled from those supplied by the Registrar-General and have been utilised, as directed, when calculating Birth, Death, Infantile Mortality Rates, etc.

### Population

The Registrar-General's estimates of the resident population of Bexhill for the year 1939 are 23,760 and 25,030, to be used for calculating Birth Rates and Death Rates respectively. Both these figures represent an increase on the previous year's estimated population which was 23,430.

### Births

The Birth Rate for 1939 is 11.1 per 1,000 estimated population. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 11.3, while that for England and Wales for 1939 is 15.0

### Deaths

The Crude Death Rate for 1939 is 13.7 per 1,000 estimated population, but when the Areal Comparability Factor is applied, the Death Rate is 10.6. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 10.03, while that for England and Wales for 1939 is 12.1.

### Infantile Deaths

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1939 is 34.0 per 1,000 registered live births. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 26.5, while that for England and Wales for 1939 is 50.

### Zymotic Deaths

Only one death was attributed to the zymotic diseases during 1939, namely, to Whooping Cough. This gives a rate of .04 per 1,000 estimated population, the same rate as for the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes	Male 134	Female 205
1. Typhoid & Parat. Fever ..	-	-
2. Measles .. ..	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever .. ..	-	-
4. Whooping Cough .. ..	-	1
5. Diphtheria .. ..	-	-
6. Influenza .. ..	-	-
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ..	-	-
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	6
10. Other Tuberculosis .. ..	1	1
11. Syphilis .. ..	2	-
12. G.P.I., tabes, etc. .. ..	1	-
13. Cancer .. ..	22	37
14. Diabetes .. ..	2	2
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ..	5	24
16. Heart Disease .. ..	59	61
17. Aneurysm .. ..	-	-
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ..	4	16
19. Bronchitis .. ..	3	3
20. Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	3	5
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	-	3
22. Peptic Ulcer .. ..	3	1
23. Diarrhoea .. ..	-	-
24. Appendicitis .. ..	1	2
25. Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	2	-
26. Other Liver Diseases .. ..	-	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases .. ..	3	3
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	4	3
29. Puerperal Sepsis .. ..	-	-
30. Other Puerperal Diseases .. ..	-	-
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	2	3
32. Senility .. ..	1	2
33. Suicide .. ..	1	3
34. Other Violence .. ..	1	10
35. Other defined Diseases .. ..	16	16
36. Ill-defined or not known .. ..	-	-
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over ..	-	1

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY &  
CASE NOTES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939.  
(Provisional figures based on Weekly & Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000, 1931 Census.	London Adminis- trative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population				
<u>BIRTHS</u>				
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
<u>DEATHS</u>				
All causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.0.1	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>				
Small-pox	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.44	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
<u>Maternal Mortality:</u>				
Puerperal sepsis	0.77 )	Not available		
Others	2.16 )			
Total	2.93 )			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)				
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>				
Puerperal sepsis	0.74 )	Not available		
Others	2.08 )			
Total	2.82 )			
<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>				
Puerperal Fever )	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
Puerperal Pyrexia)				14.22

T A B L E 3

AGE AT DEATH - ALL CASES, 1939.

Under 1 Yr.	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	Total
Males	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	5	30	92	139
Females	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	10	13	15	156	205

T A B L E 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS & RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central ..	53	2.1	-	-
Egerton Park ..	59	2.3	1	3.4
Old Town ..	90	3.6	4	13.6
Sackville ..	73	2.9	1	3.4
St. Mark's ..	69	2.8	4	13.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1939 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION

Disease	Ward:-										
	Central	Egerton Park	Rate	Old Town	Rate	Sack- ville	Rate	St. Mark's	Rate	Total	Rate
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	.12	-	-	7	.28	10	.40
Diphtheria	2	.03	8	.32	-	-	-	5	.20	15	.60
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	.12	10	.39	2	.08	-	1	.04	16	.63
Pneumonia (Acute Primary & Influenzal)	1	.04	-	-	1	.04	-	1	.04	3	.12
Erysipelas	2	.08	2	.08	1	.04	-	2	.08	7	.28
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	7	.28	1	.04	-	-	-	8	.32
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.04	1	.04
Whooping Cough	-	-	7	.28	9	.36	-	19	.76	35	1.40
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	.04	-	-	-	1	.04
Totals .....	8	.32	34	1.35	18	.72	-	36	1.44	96	3.83



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing, and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii)(a) Laboratory facilities

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out for the Authority at the Clinical Research Association, London, and at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

The following table shows the number of specimens dealt with in 1939:-

			<u>Number</u> <u>Examined</u>	<u>Result</u>	
				<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Swabs for Diphtheria	..		371	48	323
Paratyphoid B - Widal	..		1	-	1
Sputa for Tuberculosis	..		8	2	6
Miscellaneous examinations	..		17	1	16
Total	..	..	<u>397</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>346</u>

At the outbreak of hostilities an Emergency Laboratory Service was organised throughout the Country and in this connection Laboratories at Horsham and Canterbury would serve this area if required.

(b) Ambulance facilities

For Infectious Diseases:

The arrangements for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease as described in my report for 1938, which were designed as a temporary measure until the scheme for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease in the Isolation Hospital, County Borough of Hastings had been established, were continued until September, 1939.



On the outbreak of hostilities, however, the Hastings Scheme had to be postponed, and the existing arrangements modified, as a result of which, all cases of Infectious Disease are removed by members of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (appropriate precautions being taken) in one of their ambulances which is reserved for this particular purpose. The Brigade make a fixed charge per case to the Local Authority.

This service is available both to residents and evacuees and as a temporary arrangement, is meeting the requirements of the Borough.

#### For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases:

There has been no change in the arrangements from those described in the report for 1938.

The ambulances conveyed 505 patients to hospitals during 1939.

#### (c) Nursing in the home

The Bexhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains four district nurses who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. During 1939, the following number of cases were attended:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	183
General cases	..	238

and the visits paid were:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	3,532
General Nursing	..	7,090
Casual Visits	..	234

The Bexhill Corporation make an annual grant of £100 towards the Association.

#### (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

There has been little change in the arrangements for clinics as set out in my report for 1938. At the outbreak of hostilities, however, owing to the reception of evacuees, including expectant mothers, additional and special clinics have been held since September, 1939.

The existing facilities at the Minor Ailment and Dental Clinics were made available to evacuees, and, in addition, ante and post-natal clinics were held in conjunction with the Emergency Maternity Home, Cooden.



## (e. Hospitals)

### Provided by the Council:

The Borough Isolation Hospital, Clinch Green: for Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox. Ten beds (on 144 sq. ft.) per patient basis.)

Resident Staff: Matron and two Nurses.

Admissions and discharges are under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, but patients are treated by their own medical practitioners.

The scheme to which reference was made in my report for 1938 whereby cases of infectious disease were to be received into the Isolation Hospital of the County Borough of Hastings, was under consideration up to the outbreak of hostilities which, unfortunately, has necessitated a delay in the negotiations.

### Number of Beds Retained by the Council in Outside Hospitals:

Brede Smallpox Hospital: The arrangements made by the Bexhill Corporation with the County Borough of Hastings whereby four beds are retained for Bexhill cases of Smallpox continued until September, 1939. On the outbreak of hostilities however, the Brede Hospital was taken over temporarily for convalescent patients and arrangements were made for sporadic cases of smallpox to be admitted to the Sussex Western Joint Smallpox Hospital, Sedgebrook.

No cases were admitted from the Borough during 1939.

### Other Hospitals:

Aurusta-Victoria Auxiliary Hospital: In September, an auxiliary hospital was opened for children from the evacuation areas. The hospital was formerly a German residential college and was fully equipped. It provides accommodation for 33 patients, 14 beds being reserved for non-infectious cases and 19 beds for certain infectious diseases.

At the end of the year, 86 patients had been admitted.

Bexhill Hospital: (Voluntary) Mr. P.E. Windo, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied me with the following data:-

"The Hospital has been scheduled as a Class 1 A Casualty Hospital under the Emergency Hospital Scheme and the bed complement has been doubled.

"Forty-five patients evacuated from Hospitals in the London area were received a few days before war was declared."

In-patients;	..	..	..	..	1,068
Average length of stay of each patient	..				18.5 days
Average daily number of beds occupied	..				56.3
Operations:					
Major	..	..	..	..	322
Minor	..	..	..	..	969

#### Out-patients:

Aural Dept.	..	..	..	..	235
Casualty Dept.					
Emergencies	..	..	..	356	
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	487	843
Dental Dept.	..	..	..	..	93
Dermatological Dept.	..	..	..	..	73
Massage and Electrical Dept.	..	..	..	..	281
Medical Out-patients	..	..	..	..	22
Ophthalmic Dept.	..	..	..	..	155
X-Ray Dept.	..	..	..	..	1,344
Surgical Out-patients	..	..	..	..	245

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Total	..	..	..	3,291
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Out-patient attendances 6,503

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#### Mortuary

The mortuary, situated in the grounds of the Bexhill Hospital, is maintained by the Corporation and is in a very satisfactory condition.

#### 2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council.

The staff consists of four certified midwives one of whom devotes her time entirely to maternity work, whilst the others devote their time between midwifery and infant health visiting.

Two part-time Medical Officers attend the ante-natal and maternity and child welfare clinics.

At the commencement of September, over 200 expectant mothers were received from evacuating areas and an Emergency Maternity Home was established at the Metropolitan Convalescent Home, Cooden, where accommodation was available for approximately 90 beds. The staff included a Senior Resident Medical Officer, Junior Resident Medical Officer, Matron and Nursing Staff, at one time, thirty midwives being employed. Maternity cases were received from 3rd September until 11th November during which time 201 confinements took place.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1939, was 8.

T A B L E                      6

ATTENDANCES AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, ANTE-NATAL AND  
DENTAL CLINICS

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:                      1938.    1939.

(a) Mothers:

Number attending	..	..	..	391	410
Number of attendances	..	..	..	5046	4829

(b) Children:

Number who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were:-

(i) Under one year	..	..	175	161
(ii) Between the ages of 1 & 5 years			41	28

Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b)(i)	..	..	66.3	61.2
---	----	----	------	------

Number of attendances by children:

(i) Under one year	..	..	2636	2808
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years			3646	3432

Ante-Natal Clinic:

Number of Expectant Mothers attending	..	109	125
Number of attendances	..      ..      ..	167	190

Dental Clinic:

Number of attendances by Mothers	..	85	189
Number of attendances by Infants	..	26	21

### (ii) Institutional provision for Mothers or Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers as described in my report for 1938 have continued to be available during the year. Similarly, the arrangements for elementary school children requiring treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids and crippling or postural defects have been continued throughout the year.

### (iii) Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:-

To Expectant Mothers:	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>
First visits	160	137
Subsequent visits	365	338
To Infants under one year:		
First visits	269	216
Total visits	1356	915
To Children aged 1 to 5 years	1228	1141
Total visits paid by Health Visitors	2584	2056

### (iv) Child Life Protection

The provisions of Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are carried out by the East Sussex County Council.

### (v) Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. cases

The arrangements for the dental and orthopaedic treatment of children under five years, as described in my report for 1938, have been continued throughout the year.

### 3. Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local Supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936. The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Total number of homes registered in the Borough	..	21
Number of applications for registration during 1939	..	4
Homes registered during the year	..	3
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	..	1
Nursing homes closed down during the year by the owners		-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1.(i) Water Supply

The control of the water supply within the Borough is delegated to the Borough Council under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925.

No new sources of public water supply were utilised during 1939, but the distributive system has been extended to cover a large part of the parish of Catsfield in the Battle Rural District. To meet this demand 917 yds. of 6" and 5927 yds. of 4" Cast Iron Main were laid, and 39 Fire Hydrants were fixed. The number of properties capable of taking a supply from these mains is 150, and the number of properties connected at the end of the year was 71.

With regard to:

(a) Quality - the water is of excellent quality both for drinking and domestic purposes. An analysis of a sample taken during 1939 is submitted under a later part of the report.

(b) Quantity - The supply has met the demands of those parts of the Borough which are on a piped supply throughout the year, and there has been no curtailment.

Owing to the outbreak of hostilities it has not been possible to proceed with the scheme for the provision of a piped supply in one of the more rural parts of the Borough in which development is taking place and in which the present supply is by means of wells.

The same arrangements with regard to the bacteriological and chemical examination of the piped supply of the Borough, as outlined in the report for last year, have been continued during 1939, with the same satisfactory results.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1939 in the water area was 1,043,019. It represents an increase of 11,920 gallons per day as compared with 1938. The average consumption per head per diem in the water area for 1939 was 43.8 gallons, as follows: for trade purposes, 12.2.; for domestic purposes, 33.6

## W A T E R   A N A L Y S I S

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 20th December, 1939.

### High Level

#### Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	..	..	..	..	Clear and bright
Colour	..	..	..	..	Normal
Odour	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	Neutral: 7.2
Free Carbonic Acid	..	..	..	..	1.4
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	..	..	..	..	440
Total Solids, dried at 180°C	..	..	..	..	29.5
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	3.2
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	14.5
Hardness - Permanent	..	..	..	..	1.0
Temporary	..	..	..	..	12.0
Total	..	..	..	..	13.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	..	..	..	0.00
Nitrates	..	..	..	..	Absent
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F	..	..	..	..	0.010
Metals - Iron	..	..	..	..	0.015
Others	..	..	..	..	Absent

#### Bacteriological Results

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.		
On Agar in 1 day at 37°C	..	0
On Agar in 2 days at 37°C	..	0
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C	..	8
Bacillus Coli	..	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	..	Absent in 100 c.c.

### Report

This is a very satisfactory sample. The water is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity.

It has moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and no metals with the exception of a negligible trace of iron.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



## (ii) Drainage and Sewerage

During the year approximately 1,830 yards of sewers were constructed by private enterprise, which the Council will be recommended to declare public sewers.

The Council has under consideration schemes for the provision of sewers in certain parts of the Borough where cesspool drainage is at present in operation, and it is regretted that there may be delay in the adoption of these schemes.

## 2. Rivers and Streams

No action was found to be necessary with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams in the Borough.

## 3. (i) Closet Accommodation

The following table gives particulars of the existing closet accommodation in areas formerly rural in character and not as yet served by sewers:-

Number of pail closets or similar type receptacles ..	103
Number of cesspools .. ..	279
Number of cesspools fixed during 1939 ..	8

## (ii) Public Cleansing

The supervision of the work of the removal and disposal of house refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor and no change in procedure has taken place during the year. The Corporation Tip situated at St. Mary's Lane, in a more rural part of the Borough, is in a satisfactory condition.

During the year the Council extended its activities in the matter of the salvage of waste paper. Continued publicity secured the co-operation of householders and the amount recovered increased each month, with the result that quite good tonnages were being dealt with when the Ministry of Supply commenced their requests for a National effort. Preparations were made at the end of the year with a view to the recovery during 1940 of all the materials sought by the Controller of Salvage.

The service for the emptying of cesspools in the Borough by the Corporation machine, on the payment of a charge based on the number of times the cesspool is emptied per annum, has been continued during the year. 136 visits were paid to some 280 cesspools.

The system of street cleansing that is undertaken throughout the year may be regarded as very satisfactory.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During the year the district has been inspected and the necessary action taken to deal with any nuisances or defaults discovered. In addition to general sanitary work, 1094 visits were paid in connection with the Casualty Services section of the local A.R.P. Scheme. The following table indicates the scope and extent of the duties performed during the year:

T A B L E                      7

Dwelling-houses inspected	..	..	..	331
Visits re above	..	..	..	1110
Overcrowding	..	..	..	315
Schools	..	..	..	11
Water Supply	..	..	..	54
Smoke abatement	..	..	..	19
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	54
Stables and piggeries	..	..	..	7
Offensive trades	..	..	..	3
Factories, workshops, etc.	..	..	..	155
Bakehouses	..	..	..	20
Shops	..	..	..	125
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	34
Theatres and cinemas	..	..	..	4
Rats and mice	..	..	..	111
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	293
Foodshops	..	..	..	412
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	..	..	..	132
Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	41
Milk sampling	..	..	..	18
Infectious disease and disinfection	..	..	..	785
Disinfestation	..	..	..	250
Re-visits to work in progress	..	..	..	331
A.R.P.	..	..	..	1094
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	22
				<hr/>
				5731
				<hr/>



## COMPLAINTS

During the year, 170 complaints were received and in 149 instances it was possible to take remedial action.

The following table indicates the nature of the complaints received:-

T A B L E 8

Housing defects	..	..	26
Water supply	..	..	3
Overcrowding	..	..	4
Absence of sanitary dustbin	..	..	6
Smoke nuisances	..	..	1
Verminous premises	..	..	4
Keeping of animals	..	..	5
Rats and mice	..	..	24
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	..	..	22
Burning of refuse	..	..	5
Cesspools	..	..	5
Drains and sanitary fittings	..	..	24
Miscellaneous	..	..	41
			<hr/>
			170
			<hr/>

## SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

In dealing with certificates under the Land Charges Act, 1925, it is the practice of the Town Clerk's Department to make enquiries as to any outstanding sanitary notices; during the year approximately 406 enquiries were dealt with. In this way, it is possible, on change of ownership, to complete any outstanding schedules of repair work.

It was not found necessary to institute any legal proceedings and the following table shows the number of defects found and the notices served, together with the results:-

Subject of Notice	Notices		Number Complied with	Number Outstand- ing at end of Year.
	Prelim- inary	Statutory		
Contraventions of:				
Housing Act, 1936, Section 62.	3	-	3	-
Meat Regulations, 1924. ..	2	-	2	-
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.	1	-	1	1
Factories Act, 1937. ..	8	-	9	1
Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919.	4	-	5	-
Shops Act, 1934, Section 10.	12	-	10	3
Dampness arising from:				
Defective roofs ..	10	1	15	2
Defective eaves gutters ..	4	-	4	1
Defective rainwater pipes ..	4	-	4	-
Defective external pointing	25	1	22	13
Other causes .. ..	7	1	7	2
Absence of ventilated foodstore	19	-	11	8
Defective floors .. ..	11	-	8	3
Defective doors, cupboards, etc.	2	-	2	-
Defective internal plaster work	18	3	20	3
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc. .. ..	25	-	33	4
Defective fireplaces, oven, etc.	9	-	10	-
Defective chimney flues ..	1	-	1	-
Defective yard paving ..	13	-	6	8
Defective wash-boilers ..	2	-	-	2
Absence of proper sink ..	4	-	2	3
Defective sink waste-pipe ..	2	-	2	-
Dirty condition of rooms or premises .. ..	7	-	9	2
Sanitary dustbins required ..	38	-	38	1
Defective water closets ..	8	1	11	1
Insufficient flush to water closets .. ..	2	-	2	-
Choked drains .. ..	12	-	12	-
Defective drains .. ..	3	-	9	-
Defective gullies and cement drainings .. ..	1	-	2	-
Defective soilpipes .. ..	1	-	1	-
Keeping of animals, etc. ..	-	-	-	-
Ditches requiring cleansing ..	-	-	-	-
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	11	-	11	-
Public encroachment .. ..	1	-	1	-
Miscellaneous .. ..	14	1	11	4
	330	8	334	62

## HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

The work of house inspection and reconditioning of property proceeded normally until the outbreak of war, 81 houses being recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. One Clearance Area, comprising four cottages, and two Individual Unfit Houses were represented with a view to demolition. 142 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

The following table shows the details of sanitary improvements effected during the year:-

T A B L E                      10

Roofs repaired .. .. .	22
Eaves gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	12
External walls repaired or repointed .. ..	36
Sub-floor ventilation provided .. ..	2
Dampness abated .. .. .	19
Plasterwork repaired, cleansed or distempored ..	35
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed ..	38
Stoves or firegrates repaired or renewed ..	6
Floors repaired or renewed .. ..	14
New baths fixed .. .. .	13
New lavatory basins fixed .. ..	64
New impervious sinks fixed .. ..	15
Existing wastepipes repaired or renewed ..	4
Ventilated food stores provided .. ..	10
Yard paving renewed or repaired .. ..	11
Premises limewashed .. .. .	12
Dustbins provided .. .. .	94
New W.C. compartments constructed .. ..	26
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated	30
New pedestal pans fixed .. ..	8
Flushing cisterns fixed or adjusted .. ..	5
New soil pipes or ventilation shafts fixed ..	12
Ventilation shafts repaired .. ..	4
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid ..	42
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed ..	7
Accumulations removed .. .. .	17
Miscellaneous .. .. .	46

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Upon the above Act coming into operation, it was necessary to form a new system of records, and the work of carrying out a survey of the existing factories in the Borough was commenced. At the end of the year, 83 premises had been inspected and a total of 155 visits made.

# T A B L E 11

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	59	5	-
Factories without mechanical power	99	8	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	7	-	-
Total ..	155	13	-

### 11. Defects found

Particulars	<u>Number of Defects</u>			Number of Defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	7	10	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Drainage of Wipers (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	1	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-
	13	16	-	-

## RAIS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

During 1939, 24 complaints were received by the Department with regard to rats, as compared with 41 during the previous year.

In connection with National Rat Week, the usual advertisement was inserted in the local press and leaflets giving advice to the public were available in the Department.

There are no large granaries or warehouses in Bexhill and the work presented no major problems but continued steadily throughout the year.

## SANITARY CERTIFICATES

During the year, one Sanitary Certificate and two Drainage Reports were issued.

There has been no change with regard to the procedure for the issue of Sanitary Certificates, but to meet the demand for a less severe test, a report is now issued by the Department following the application of a smoke test. The remedying of defects is enforced and although the outbreak of war naturally curtailed this work, it is hoped that the new Drainage Report will encourage the voluntary testing of drains.

## DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid under this heading during the year was 785, as compared with 475 in 1938. This increase is due, in some measure, to the increased population brought about by the reception of evacuees.

Bedding is treated by steam at the disinfecting station and the following table indicates the variety and number of articles disinfected or destroyed, and the number of rooms fumigated:-

# T A B L E                      12

## ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Wearing apparel	..	..	114
Beds ..	..	..	16
Mattresses	..	..	216
Eiderdowns	..	..	39
Bolsters ..	..	..	28
Pillows ..	..	..	332
Blankets ..	..	..	477
Sheets ..	..	..	111
Miscellaneous	..	..	340
			<hr/>
			1673
			<hr/>

## ROOMS FUMIGATED

Scarlet Fever	..	..	12
Diphtheria	..	..	17
Tuberculosis	..	..	17
Cancer ..	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	5
Measles ..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous	..	..	46
			<hr/>
			110
			<hr/>



#### (iv) Shops and Offices

The administration of the provisions of Section 10, Shops Act, 1934, relating to sanitary and other arrangements for the health of the workers employed in or about shops is carried out by the Public Health Department.

Only one complaint was received during the year and this referred to lack of proper closet accommodation. Following the service of an informal notice, the necessary accommodation was provided.

The following tabulated list indicates the nature of the improvements that were carried out during the year:-

Provision of heating apparatus ..	4
Provision of washing facilities ..	4
Improvements to closet accommodation	4

The work of inspection of offices was continued during the year and at the end of 1939, 33 offices were on the register. All premises inspected were found to be satisfactory.

#### (v) Camping Sites

The following information is submitted in tabular form:-

(1) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1939 ..	23
(2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 .. ..	14
(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1939 .. ..	1065

There has been no change in the procedure for controlling moveable dwellings by licensing and during the year 1939, three new licences and eleven renewals were issued.

It is pleasing to record that no complaints were received during the year. The camps were maintained in a very satisfactory condition and no nuisances were found to exist.

#### (vi) Smoke Abatement

The only complaint received during the year was in connection with the Gas Works to which reference was made in the report for 1938.

Following a request to the Ministry of Health for advice, one of H.M. Alkali Inspectors paid several visits to the premises and the carrying out of his recommendations effected a considerable reduction in the emission of smoke.

#### (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools

##### (a) Public:

The Corporation Open-Air Swimming Pool, in Egerton Park, is equipped with a modern filtration plant which provides for continuous filtration combined with accurately-controlled chlorination with a four-hour turn-over period.

During the summer season, (i.e. 21st May to 26th August, 1939,) the total number of bathers was 15,218, making an average daily attendance of approximately 155.

All the samples of the pool water submitted for examination were of a very satisfactory nature.

##### (b) Privately owned:

There are no privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

#### (viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

<u>Infested</u>		<u>Disinfested</u>	
(a) Council houses	.. 7	(a) Council houses	.. 7
(b) Other houses	.. 3	(b) Other houses	.. 3

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Staff of the Public Health Department and there has been no change in the methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs, the methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses and (3) the measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation, from those described in detail in the report for 1938.



#### 4. Schools

A survey of the schools has taken place and the general position with regard to hygiene remains unchanged from that described in my previous reports.

It is pleasing to report that the progress in the building of the new school has been maintained.

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H O U S I N G

At the commencement of the year, a small group of houses, Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5, Brickyard Cottages, Turkey Road, were represented as a Clearance Area, and the Clearance Order was subsequently confirmed without modification. The re-housing of the tenants was under consideration at the end of the year, and in view of the recommendations contained in Ministry of Health Circular 1866, demolition was deferred pending further instructions being received. Nos. 2 and 3, Lunsford Cottages, Pear Tree Lane, were represented as Individual Unfit houses and were demolished during the month of June.

General details with regard to new houses erected, inspection of dwelling houses, particulars of overcrowding, etc. are submitted in the following tabular form:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total	..	..	..	..	..	182
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:						
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	Nil	
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise	..	..	..	..	Nil	
(c) Without State assistance under the Housing Acts:						
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	Nil	
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise	..	..	..	..	182	

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	331
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	1,100
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	..	..	..	81
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	452
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	147

## 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	142
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .. .. .	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

### (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

### (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	2

### (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	Nil

## 4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year .	7
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	7
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	50
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	7

(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.. .. .	7
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	50
(d)		Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	Nil
(e)		Other particulars:		
	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in houses owned by the Local Authority	.. ..	1
	(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in non-Council houses	.. ..	6
	(iii)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by voluntary removal to non-Council houses	..	2
	(iv)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by reduction in family	.. .. .	5

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# S E C T I O N E

## I N S P E C T I O N   &   S U P E R V I S I O N   O F   F O O D

### (a) Milk Supply

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises that were registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, at the conclusion of 1939, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special) Designations Orders 1936 and 1938, during the year:-

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	..	..	13
Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	8
Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	46
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies	..	..	47

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Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Accredited		1
Producer's Licence to sell milk as Accredited	..	5
Pasteuriser's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised	..	1
Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	..	5
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised	..	3

A total of 132 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops during 1939. One cowshed was reconstructed under the Milk and Dairies Order, the floors being re-laid, additional light provided, water supply laid on, and a new dairy with sterilization equipment provided.

There are approximately 270 cows in the Borough and these are inspected by Veterinary Inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Routine and special samples of Graded and Non-Graded milk were taken during the year and Table 13 indicates that the very satisfactory standard attained last year has been improved upon during 1939.

## MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

AREA OF PRODUCTION	NON - GRADED MILK		GRADED MILK		Inoculation for Tuberculosis		Phosphatase Tests		Special Examinations		Totals
	Examined by Methylene Blue & Coliform Tests	Examined by Prescribed Tests	Examined by Prescribed Tests								
				Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Posi- tive	Nega- tive	Satis- factory	
BEXHILL	8	1	1	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	18
BATTLE RURAL	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
HAILSHAM RURAL	20	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	25
OTHER SOURCES	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
TOTALS	36	3	7	-	-	8	1	-	1	-	56



(b) Meat and Other Foods

During the year a total of 583 visits were made by the Inspectors to shops, stalls, vehicles and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. The hygienic conditions in shops can be considered as very satisfactory.

There are three slaughterhouses within the Borough, two of which are licensed and one registered. During the year, improvements were carried out at both the licensed premises. Eight licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were issued to slaughtermen, all of which were renewals.

Tables 14 and 15 show the number of animals slaughtered and the details of the meat and food condemned during the year:-

T A B L E

14

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ) Number inspect- ed )	62	15	187	1169	1118
<u>ALL DISEASES EX- CEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	2	6	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	5	1	18	8
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.6	33.3	1.6	2.05	1.25
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	2	-	-	12
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	6.4	13.3	0.5	-	1.69

SUMMARY OF THE MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>				Total Weight in lbs.
			<u>lbs.</u>	
Beef:				
	1 calf and offal	..	130	
Pork:				
	7 pigs and offal	..	768	
	9 heads	..	139	
Miscellaneous:	.. ..	..	<u>287</u>	1324

OTHER DISEASED CONDITIONS

Dropsy & emacia-				
tion:	4 sheep and lambs	..	148	
Emaciation:	1 sheep and offal	..	42	
Pyæmia:	1 pig and offal	..	101	
Jaundice:	1 calf and offal	..	75	
Erysipelas:	1 pig and offal	..	64	
Immaturity:	1 calf and offal	..	36	
Suffocation:	1 lamb and offal	..	36	
Bruising:	1 pig and offal	..	146	
Pneumonia(Septic):	1 pig and offal	..	74	
Peritonitis:	2 pigs and offal	..	100	
Miscellaneous:	.. ..	..	<u>161</u>	<u>983</u>
TOTAL				2307

(c) Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The above Act came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, and under Section 14, eleven applications were received for the Registration of Premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of Ice Cream, Preserved Food, etc.

The premises were inspected and in each case it was possible to recommend the issue of the necessary licence.

The East Sussex County Council is the Authority responsible for the administration of the undermentioned Acts, and has supplied the following information:-

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	47	26	47	21	Nil	5
Cream	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butter	-	2	-	2	-	-
Honey	-	-	-	-	-	-
Demerara Sugar	-	1	-	1	-	-
Coffee	-	1	-	1	-	-
Olive Oil	-	1	-	1	-	-

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925 to 1939

Seven samples of Cream were taken informally under the above Regulations, all of which were satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Apart from the addition of Whooping Cough and Measles, there has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The year 1939 had the following features with regard to the incidence of infectious disease within the Borough:-

Firstly, a marked decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria and Pneumonia notified, and secondly, an increase in the number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum. This increase may be accounted for by the fact that at the beginning of the war, over 200 expectant mothers were received into an Emergency Maternity Home at Bexhill from evacuating areas.

It is gratifying to record that although approximately 1,000 children of school-age were received into Bexhill from evacuation areas, no serious epidemics of infectious disease occurred.

Arrangements were made during the latter part of the year for the establishment of a Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic. Sessions commenced in February, 1940.

The following table shows the number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, and the total deaths:

T A B L E 16

Disease	Notifications Received	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths (Residents only)
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	10	-
Diphtheria	15	19	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
(including Paratyphoid)			
Pneumonia	3	-	8 (all forms)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	-	-
Erysipelas	7	1	-
Measles	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	35	1	1
Observation Cases	-	4	-
Total ... ..	96	37	9

## C A N C E R

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 59, 22 males and 37 females, as compared with a total of 44, 19 males and 25 females in 1938.

The death rate per 1,000 population was 2.4.

## T U B E R C U L O S I S

During the year 1939, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 14 cases of Pulmonary and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as compared with 22 and 8 respectively for the previous year.

In addition, 13 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the undermentioned sources:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Death Returns of cases not previously notified .. ..	3	2
Transfers from other areas .. ..	7	-
Notifications of admission and discharge to and from a hospital outside the Borough of a case not previously notified .. ..	1	-

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are carried out at the Dispensary in London Road.

Official notification of this disease is fairly good.

No action was found necessary under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1923, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, either by primary notification or otherwise, during the year, together with the total number of deaths classified into age groups:-

SHOWING NEW CASES AND TOTAL DEATHS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
25 - 35	8	3	-	2	1	1	-	-
35 - 45	6	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals	17	8	1	3	3	6	1	1

Percentage of non-notified deaths to total deaths, 45.5%

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Pulmonary	..	..	.36
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	<u>.08</u>
All Forms	..	..	<u>.44</u>

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register at the end of 1939 was as follows:-

			Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	..	..	31	35	66
Non-Pulmonary	..		8	13	21
			<u>39</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>87</u>



